



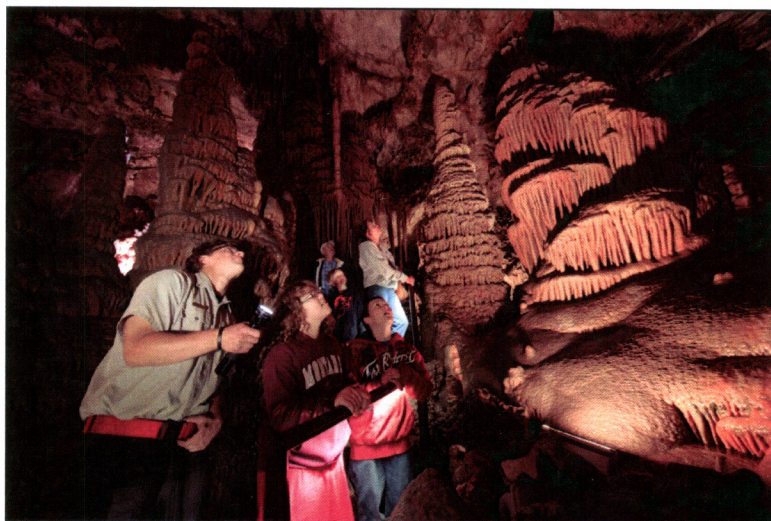
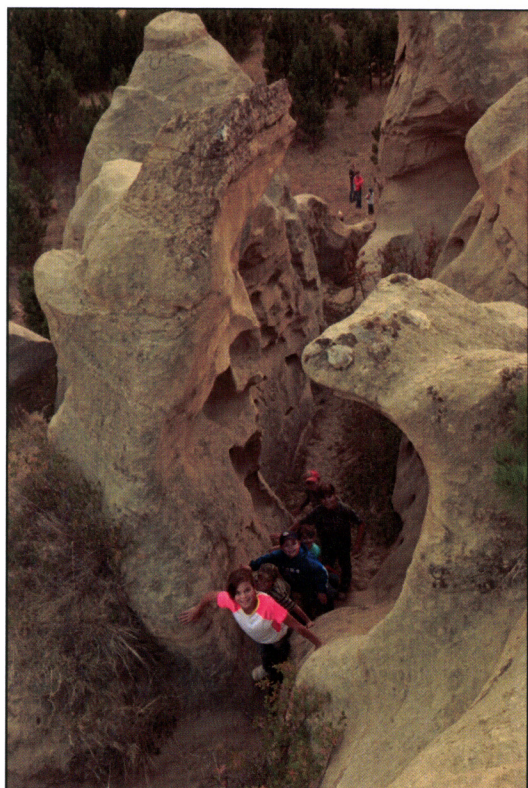
Montana State Parks

EXHIBIT 7

DATE 02/07/2013

HB Joint Approps SUB
Natural Resources and
Transportation

Montana State Parks 2013 Legislative Briefing





Happy Trails

Your vehicle registration fee connects kids to the outdoors.

Wild Horse Island State Park



EXPLORE MORE.
STATEPARKS.MT.GOV



Your vehicle registration fee connects Montana families to the outdoors.

Did you know?

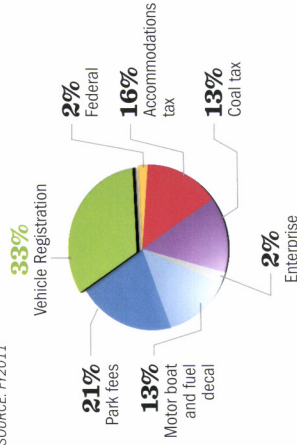
Since 2004, when you register your vehicle your support is the largest source of funding for Montana's 54 State Parks.

- ▶ Your State Parks receive no general fund dollars and no funding from hunting and fishing licensing.
- ▶ Your support means no daily entrance fees when you visit our State Parks.
- ▶ Your support helps our parks with maintenance and operations.

For just \$6, it costs less than one movie ticket or a couple of fancy cups of coffee to **have fun, make memories** and support Montana's natural, cultural and recreation heritage now and for generations to come.

How are Montana State Parks funded?

SOURCE: FY2011



Where does the \$6.00 vehicle registration fee go?

Funds are used for maintenance and operational costs at these state-owned facilities:

\$5.37 Montana's 54 State Parks

\$0.25 Montana's 320 Fishing Access Sites

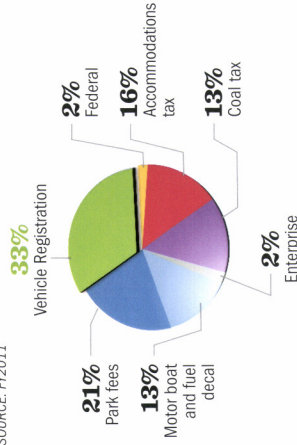
\$0.38 Virginia City and Nevada City Heritage Sites

What about visitors who are not residents of Montana?

Since non-residents do not contribute to Montana's park system through the vehicle registration fee, they continue to pay a daily entrance fee at Montana State Parks.

How are Montana State Parks funded?

SOURCE: FY2011



EXPLORE MORE.

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stateparks.mt.gov



Montana State Parks

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Cover photos (clockwise): Medicine Rocks State Park (Ekalaka), Chief Plenty Coups State Park (Pryor), Lewis & Clark Caverns State Park (Whitehall), Big Arm State Park on Flathead Lake (Kalispell)



Montana State Parks

At-a-Glance Facts

Montana has 54 state parks that are nature-based, culture/heritage-based and water-based parks. Montana State Parks include 7 National Historic Landmarks.

Visitation:

For 2012, Visitation was up 7% with more than 2 million visitors for the year, the second busiest year in state parks history.



Photo: Cooney State Park

- In 2012, 77% of visitors were residents, while 23% of visitors were non-residents.
- Resident visitors to state parks have increased 12% over the past 5 years, while out-of-state visitors have increased 34% over the past 5 years.
- Giant Springs State Park in Great Falls had the highest visitation at 293,000 visitors

Economic Impact:

"Montana State Parks represent an invaluable resource for the economy of Montana's regions, as well as the state as a whole. Satisfaction with the park experience, usage of parks, and spending as well as ultimate economic impact, continues to grow. Clearly the parks will continue to play an important role in the economic health of the state." (Source: UM Bureau of Business and Economic Research "2010 Economic Impact Survey of Visitors to Montana State Parks" 12/10)

- \$289 million dollars/year were generated for local economies by state park visitors, spending dollars at gas stations, grocery stores, hotels, restaurants, retail and more. (Source: UM BBER economic impact survey – 12/10)
- 1,600 jobs/year sustained in tourism-industry related areas (gas stations, grocery stores, hotels, restaurants, retail and more) due to Montana State Parks visitors. (Source: UM BBER economic impact survey – 12/10)

Light Vehicle Registration: State Parks Funding

The light vehicle registration fee increased from \$4 dollars to \$6 dollars in January 2012. This revenue is Montana State Parks largest source of funding. Montana State Parks receives \$5.37 of every \$6.00.

2011 - Compliance at \$4 dollar fee was 77%*

2012 - Compliance at increased \$6 dollar fee was 77%* (this number represents January -September 2012)



Montana State Parks

Visitation & Visitor Feedback

2012 Annual Visitation: 2.0 Million Visitors

Total State Parks visitation for 2012 is **2,003,875** visitors, up **7%** from 2011. This year marks the only the second time in Montana State Parks' history that visitation has exceeded 2.0 million visitors in a year. The first time was in 2009.

For the 5-year trend from 2008 to 2012, visitation is up **10%** for the calendar year.



Montana State Parks Visitation, 2008-2012

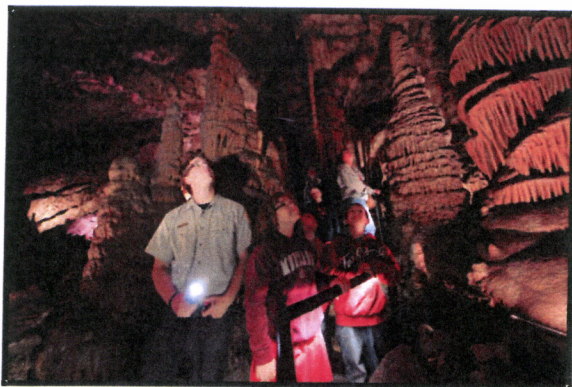
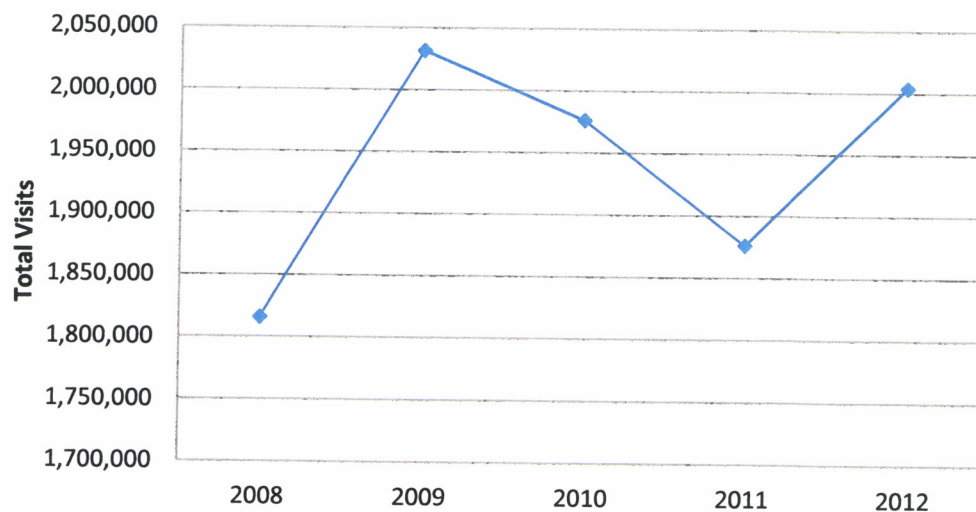


Photo: Lewis & Clark Caverns State Park



Photo: Chief Plenty Coups State Park

Visitation & Visitor Feedback



Photo: Wild Horse Island State Park



Photo: Big Arm State Park

"Bravo! The efforts to preserve history while granting access to the buildings make Bannack the best historical site I've been to. A real treasure."

– Texas Visitor to Bannack State Park

"Greg and Martha Neely were excellent camp hosts. They take great care of their guests! The bathrooms were so clean."

– Canadian Visitor to West Shore State Park

"We go to the park often. It is always well taken care of and the staff is always polite and friendly."

- MT visitor to Lost Creek State Park

"One of the best caverns I have been to. The tour guide Jim was outstanding. The whole experience was wonderful."

– NH Visitor to Lewis & Clark Caverns State Park



Montana State Parks

Campsite Reservation Program

On March 30, 2011, Montana State Parks implemented an online campsite reservation program. This exciting program gives the public the opportunity to make reservations online or through a toll-free call center. The program helps visitors book in advance and take the stress out of worrying about arriving at campground with no campsites available. The ability to book campsites online has added to the tourism economy by bringing in more visitors from out-of-state.



Montana State Parks reservation program saw 10,599 transactions in 2011 (from April – December) and 12,098 (January-December) in 2012.

In 2012, the new reservation program saw a 35.5% increase in revenues compared to 2010 when the program was not in place. Revenues in 2012 were \$902,846, compared to \$666,301 in 2010.

In 2012, 74% of reservations were made through the internet and 26% were made through the toll-free call center.

The reservation program is a partnership with Idaho State Parks & Recreation and 'Reserve America' the largest provider of online campsite reservations in North America.

Montana State Parks' campsites can be reserved for the "peak season" from the third Friday in May through the third Sunday in September. Reservations can now be made up to 9 months in advance from the date of arrival.



"We reserved our spots for a family reunion and it was a terrific weekend. Something for all ages to enjoy! Thank you."

-Logan State Park visitor comment card

Photo: Big Arm State Park

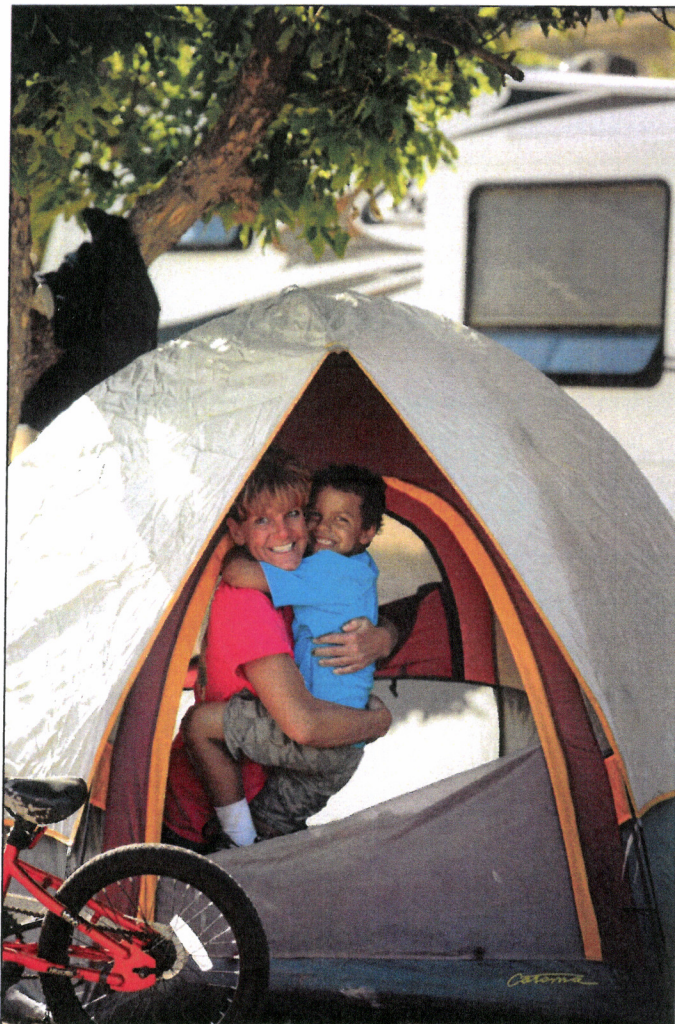


Montana State Parks

Campsite Reservation Program

Innovation

The public can make online campsite reservations at 20 of the 54 state parks with 500 sites to choose from. In addition to campsites, visitors can book cabins, tipis and yurts. For spontaneous campers, approximately 25% of the campsites are held back on a first-come, first-served basis.



"Thank you for starting advance reservations! It's the only way we could ever experience camping. We had a wonderful time and everything exceeded our expectations. Kids loved the playground!!"

- Wayfarers State Park visitor
comment card

Photo: Lewis & Clark Caverns State Park



Montana State Parks

Marketing & Communications

Challenges:

Strengthen positive image and value of Montana State Parks to residents and out of state visitors

- **Maintain** future of parks funding through vehicle registration
- **Increase** visitation = revenue for Montana State Parks (through camping fees, non-resident entrance fees and other park fees, accommodations tax and more)
- **Increase** visitation = stronger local economies through jobs created and local revenue generated

2012 Goals:

- Keep Vehicle Registration Fee compliance above 70%
- Increase Visitation 5% over 2011

2012 Results:

- Vehicle Registration compliance was 77% for the calendar year.
- Visitation increased 7% for the summer season (May-August) and 7% for the calendar year.

2012 Montana State Parks -Media Effectiveness Research:

- 67% of survey respondents said that Montana State Parks media messages had a positive effect and 54% said it persuaded them to visit a state park.*
- Awareness of Montana State Parks media messages (online survey participants): 54% recall seeing a TV commercial, 50% newspaper article, 40% TV news story, 37% website, 34% radio. *

*"Montana State Parks Visitor Profile and Media Awareness": UM Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research (December 2012) n= 582

Recognitions:

In October 2012, Montana State Parks was recognized by the Montana Recreation & Park Association with a Marketing award.





Montana State Parks

Marketing & Communications

2012

Re-Designed Website: A new website was launched in August that showcases Montana State Parks as exciting tourist destinations. It features beautiful photography, streamlined text and user-friendly navigation. As part of this effort, we launched a new URL stateparks.mt.gov. The website design was a partnership with Montana Office of Tourism.



TV Spot: This was an exciting first for Montana State Parks. We produced a :30 TV spot called “Explore More” that features 3 residents with authentic connections to our parks talking about the value of Montana State Parks. The FWP Foundation and Our Montana, a friends group from Billings, sponsored the media buy. The spot aired statewide more than 400x in 2012, with more than 200 airings in Montana during the 2012 Summer Olympics.

Radio spots: We wrote and produced 2 radio spots that ran statewide during our peak season. One spot was meant to capture your attention in a fun way, and featured a local musician from Glendive singing our 20 campsite reservation parks in alphabetical order. The other radio spot we produced featured 3 kids and a cowboy poet (Mike Logan) talking about Bannack State Park celebrating its 150th anniversary since the gold strike.

Vehicle Registration Fee Promotional Cards/Posters at Treasurers Offices: We did outreach with treasurers’ office staff in 2011 to find out how to reach residents who come in to register their vehicles. How can we prevent them from opting out of our vehicle registration fee? We listened to the treasurer staff suggestions and created a poster and rack card campaign that were distributed by field staff and featured in the treasurers’ offices. We went back in 2012 to meet with the staff and heard positive feedback about the campaign in person and through a questionnaire.

We continue to work through **traditional media** by writing and sending out press releases and calling to pitch the press on stories for radio, TV and newspapers. We promote our parks through **social media**: Facebook, Twitter and You Tube.

We also promote our parks throughout the year by giving presentations to groups and associations, we have exhibit displays at conferences and sportshows.

We are launching a **free mobile APP** this spring at no cost to parks. We have partnered with a friends group “Our Montana” and a company called “Parks by Nature” on this effort.

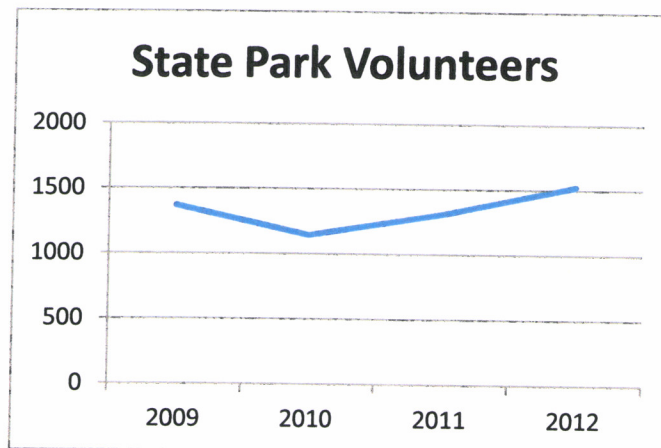


Montana State Parks

Volunteers

In 2012, the number of Volunteers for Montana State Parks **increased by 14%** over 2011.

Montana State Parks offers volunteer opportunities for individuals, families, service groups, associations and clubs. Whether spending an hour, a day, or a season, our volunteers can find something to match their interests and help provide great customer service to our visitors.



In 2012, **1,518 volunteers** provided over **41,965 hours of service** to Montana State Parks, a 14% increase over the prior year. These hours are **equivalent to 20 FTE** (full time employees).

"Our National Public Lands Day event was a success because we got people willing to come out and volunteer at be actively involved at Bannack State Park. "

-AmeriCorps Member Josh Hansen

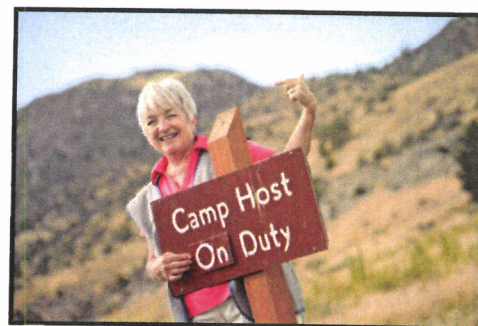


Photo: Host at Lewis & Clark Caverns State Park

Photo: Volunteers at Milltown State Park



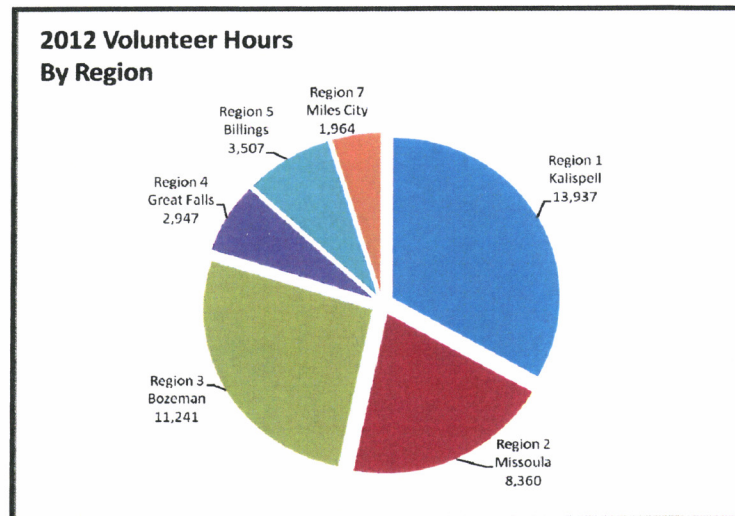
Montana State Parks

Volunteers

Montana State Parks' Volunteer Program Goals:

- Improve the level of service to the public.
- Provide meaningful opportunities for community members to become actively involved with state parks.

Volunteers host at campgrounds, assist with educational programs, maintain trails, help with special events.



In 2012, the value of volunteer hours contributed to Montana State Parks was estimated at **\$461,516***.



*Total volunteer hours multiplied by \$11 per hour



Montana State Parks

Maintenance Equipment Needs

Parks Maintenance is a Priority

The experience of visitors to Montana State Parks is greatly enhanced by clean and well-maintained facilities. The Parks Division places a high priority on routine and cyclic maintenance of buildings, utilities, roads and infrastructure. This priority is further mandated in statute through the Parks Good Neighbor Policy (23-1-126, MCA). In order to meet the demands associated with parks maintenance, a variety of heavy maintenance and construction equipment is necessary, including but not limited to tractors, backhoes, skid-steers, dump trucks, mowers, trailers and utility vehicles.

Many of the heavy maintenance and construction equipment items in the Montana State Parks inventory are dated, with high mileages and/or hours of use. This presents a significant challenge to Montana State Parks, as these types of assets are typically very expensive to maintain and extremely expensive to purchase.



Parks Division 1978 Dump Truck with > 1 million service miles

Parks Division 1987 JD Backhoe with 2,300 service hours

Biennial Capital Equipment Request

Montana State Parks has submitted a new proposal request (NP-608) for one-time only equipment authority to purchase critical heavy equipment needed to maintain and repair infrastructure at parks statewide in the following amounts: FY 2014 @ \$200,000 and FY 2015 @ \$200,000.



Montana State Parks

Maintenance Equipment Needs

Heavy maintenance equipment is essential to maintaining state park facilities and infrastructure. Over the past five years, Montana State Parks has been authorized on allocating an average of \$73,200 on heavy maintenance (Capital) equipment. This allocation has not adequately provided for an optimal level of serviceable equipment.

Note: Park equipment needs far exceed the priority items listed.

2014

<u>Region</u>	<u>Location-needed</u>	<u>Equipment Item</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
Kalispell	Region-wide	Bobcat Skidsteer	\$35,000
Missoula	Region-wide	1 Ton 4x4 Duel Rear Diesel Truck	\$37,000
Bozeman	L&C Caverns State Park	Toro Z-Master series mow	\$14,000
Great Falls	Giant Springs State Park	Toro-Z Master series mower	\$14,000
Glendive	Makoshika State Park	Road Grader/Maintainer	\$80,000
Billings	Lake Elmo State Park	Utility Vehicle	\$10,000
Billings	Chief Plenty Coups State Park	Utility Vehicle	\$10,000

TOTAL FOR 2014 \$200,000

2015

<u>Region</u>	<u>Location-needed</u>	<u>Equipment Item</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
Kalispell	Region-wide	Toro Groundmaster Mower	\$18,000
Kalispell	Region-wide	Dump Trailer	\$8,000
Missoula	Region-wide	40 HP 4x4 Utility Tractor	\$37,000
Bozeman	Bannack State Park	18 ft. tilt bed trailer	\$6,000
Bozeman	Spring Meadow Lake State Park	Toro-Z Master series mower	\$14,000
Bozeman	Region-wide	Trailer mounted compressor	\$15,000
Great Falls	Region-wide	40 HP 4x4 Utility Tractor	\$27,000
Glendive	Tongue River & Rosebud Battlefield	60HP Tractor	\$58,000
Billings	Chief Plenty Coups State Park	Utility Vehicle	\$27,000

TOTAL FOR 2015 \$200,000



Montana State Parks

Public Safety and Incident Management

Public Safety Initiative

Public safety is a high priority for Montana State Parks and in support of that priority the Parks Division implemented a public safety initiative in October of 2010.

The purpose is to provide a healthy, safe and family-friendly environment that promotes positive experiences, a high level of visitor satisfaction, along with an improved public safety presence that deters unsafe behavior and criminal activity in state parks.

Objective:

The objective is to improve the integration of public safety and law enforcement into daily state park operations as a means of providing greater public service, visitor protection, and resource stewardship.

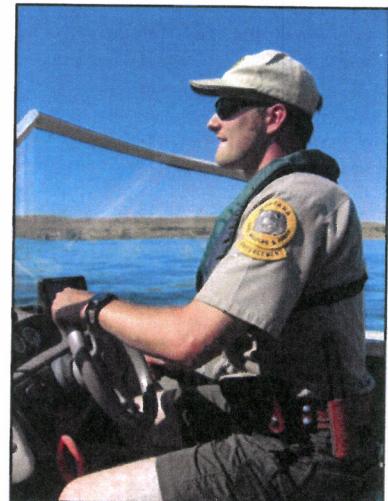
Public Safety Oversight:

State Park Managers are responsible for managing public safety operations in their respective parks. This responsibility is an annual performance outcome, as follows:

“Protects the health, safety, and property of visitors by identifying and mitigating hazards and risks. Integrates park management and operations with public safety and law enforcement agencies and jurisdictions; maintains a standard of zero visitor accidents or injuries attributed to legitimate and/or reasonable assumption of negligence on behalf of Parks Division employees.”

“I thought it was excellent having what was basically on-site law enforcement at Cooney. It provided a quick response to issues as well as peace of mind knowing that you were not alone out there as a host.”

-Jason Bough, Campground Host, Cooney State Park
(commenting on the Park Warden program).





Montana State Parks

Public Safety and Incident Management

Incident Planning & Response

Montana State Parks has established the following policies to provide guidance to field staff:

- Emergency Preparedness and Response Policy
- Incident Reporting Policy

Montana State Parks staff works in coordination with county sheriffs, city police and game wardens.

The potential for serious public safety incidents is reflected in following sampling of incidents that have occurred in state parks since 2005: vehicle accidents, drownings, vandalism, water rescues, search and rescues, first aid and medical emergencies, theft of property, disorderly conduct.



Mercy Flight Medevac for an injured park visitor at Sluice Boxes State Park



Rescue personnel responding to a hypothermia victim, Sluice Boxes State Park



Montana State Parks

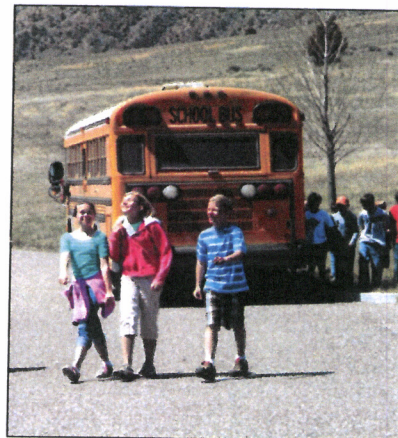
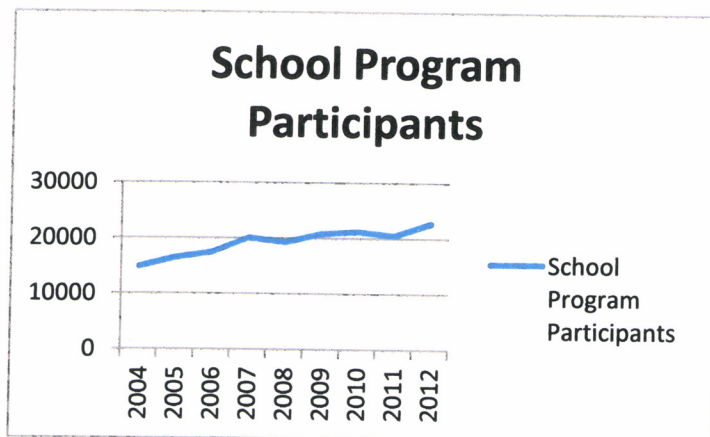
Education

Outdoor Classrooms

Montana State Parks are excellent outdoor classrooms and an ideal place for school field trips. Students can experience Native-American culture, learn about Montana's heritage, explore natural sciences and more. Each year parks' staff provides programs geared toward helping teachers meet their classroom objectives and enrich students' learning experience.

In 2012, more than 22,000 students participated in education programs hosted by Montana State Parks.

94% of teachers surveyed in 2012, agreed that Montana State Parks' programs enhanced their students understanding of Montana History, Culture and Natural History.*



School partnerships with Montana State Parks have been on the rise for nearly a decade.

From a teacher:

*"Erin was great with the kids. I love that your staff is not only knowledgeable, but is very good at working with young kids. She kept their attention, was good at re-direction and was enthusiastic. She made the presentation a lot of fun. Thanks!"**

*2012 Interpretation and Education Survey: 141 teachers completed surveys following class field trips to a Montana state park.



Montana State Parks

Education

Indian Education for All

To help ensure that Montana's Native American heritage is conveyed to all young Montanans, Montana State Parks in partnership with the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) has created 25 lesson plans for K-12 teachers that feature a Montana state park as the authentic setting for learning.

Innovation

In 2012, Montana State Parks partnered with the Missoula based company 'Inspired Classroom' to bring Montana State Parks into classrooms in Montana other states across the country using satellite technology.

Virtual classroom pilot programs have been presented at Pictograph Cave State Park and Travelers' Rest State Park.



From a Teacher:

*"Our interpreter, Clark, lead our hike with exceeding interest. We especially liked the fact that he used a particular student as an example throughout the journey which captured everyone's attention for sure. I was highly impressed with his interpreter skills."**

Programs for All:

In 2012, more than **102,000** visitors enjoyed interpretive & educational programs and special events hosted by Montana State Parks. (this number includes the 22,000 students - data)

Montana State Parks provides interpretation and education programs aimed to inspire and encourage appreciation and stewardship of our public lands and the heritage resources they represent. From campfire talks and guided hikes to outdoor skills workshops and speaker series, 2012 saw an increase in participation in our programs for the public.



Our visitors can also enjoy **8 Visitor Centers** that feature interpretive displays, artifacts, gift shops and more. They can learn from our outdoor interpretive exhibits available at 11 state parks that are like "storybooks" designed to enhance understanding and connect the visitor to the parks special attributes.

*2012 Interpretation and Education Survey. 141 teachers completed surveys following class field trips to a state park.



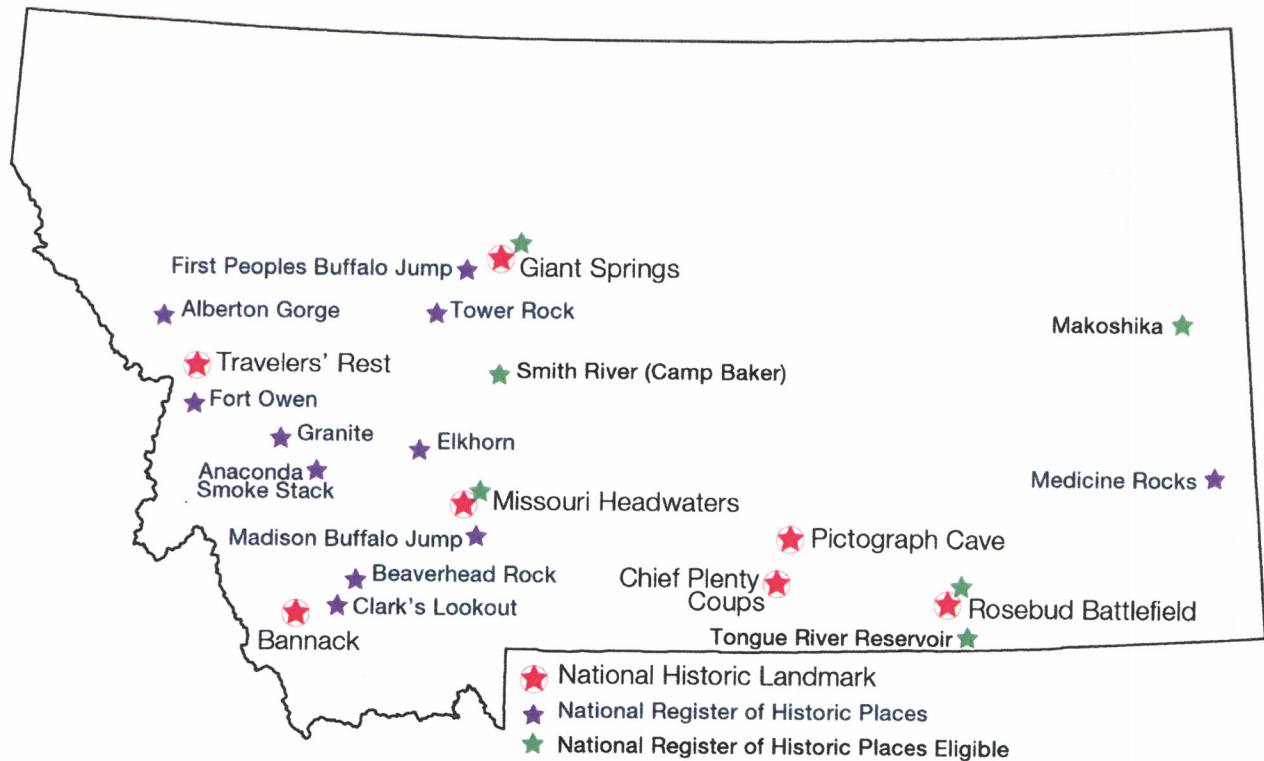
Montana State Parks

Heritage Resources Program

Montana State Parks' Heritage Resources Program combines conservation, restoration, archaeology, history and architecture in the maintenance and preservation of significant cultural sites and physical heritage assets.



Montana's 54 state parks, include **7 National Historic Landmarks**, a designation given only to the nation's most significant heritage sites. There are twenty-two state park sites that are listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.



Heritage Resources Program

Protection, preservation and management of our state park heritage resources

- Establishing agreements with University of Montana and Montana State University to conduct survey and mapping field schools at Rosebud Battlefield, Fort Owen and Medicine Rocks State Parks
- Working with the University of Montana, the Museum of the Rockies, and the University of Wyoming to return human remains from Pictograph Cave State Park to the Crow Tribe

Conservation and management of state park artifact collections

- Completing a statewide inventory of collections and their condition, employing interns to catalogue artifacts from Pictograph Cave, Fort Owen, and First Peoples Buffalo Jump, and securing proper storage and conservation for over 30,00 artifacts from Pictograph Cave

Grant writing and procurement for state parks heritage resource projects

- Receiving \$68,000 from the American Battlefield Protection Program for survey and mapping work at Rosebud Battlefield, grant was in partnership with The University of Montana
- Receiving \$28,000 from the National Park Service to prepare a National Historic Landmark nomination for First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park

"Montana State Parks has been a leader....by successfully partnering with professors and students from The University of Montana and Montana State University on the surveys, research, and site documentation at Rosebud Battlefield and at Medicine Rocks. Such creative mechanisms help stretch limited state funding and allow agencies to benefit from the long term savings inherent in preservation."

-Montana Preservation Review Board and the State Historic Preservation Office (2012)



Photo: Sandstone carving at
Medicine Rocks State Park



Photo: Instructor with UM students at
Rosebud Battlefield State Park



Montana State Parks

Montana State Parks AmeriCorps

2012 marked the inaugural season for the Montana State Parks' AmeriCorps program. Our AmeriCorps members promote healthy, active, and environmentally aware communities by improving park lands, enhancing educational opportunities, and increasing volunteerism and community outreach in Montana State Parks.

In 2012, twenty members contributed 17,600 hours of service to Montana State Parks in exchange for an Education Award that helps toward college tuition.



AmeriCorps members planned and led volunteer projects, developed and presented educational programs, assisted with artifact collection management, developed interpretive content, maintained trails, eradicated noxious weeds, and more.

Funding:

Montana State Parks contributed \$147,711 for the 2012 program with federal matching funds of \$144,413 contributed from the Corporation for National and Community Service, an independent federal agency.

Photo: AmeriCorps member with volunteers on Wild Horse Island State Park





Montana State Parks

Montana State Parks AmeriCorps



AmeriCorps member Jess Christianson assists a visitor during Bannack Days in July at Bannack State Park near Dillon.



AmeriCorps member Megan Litzke helps plant trees at Milltown State Park near Missoula during National Trails Day.

"I was able to make the event especially fun for the volunteers by focusing not only on the needs of the park, but also on their personal interests."

- 2012 AmeriCorps member Savanna Davenport - Giant Springs State Park

"I met a lot of students and teachers that really love Lone Pine and I have had some of them come back to visit with their families."

-2012 AmeriCorps member Errin Koehler - Lone Pine State Park

"I presented information on Lewis & Clark Caverns and our park's connections with local communities to both the Three Forks Chamber of Commerce, and the tourism committee of the Whitehall Chamber of Commerce. The presentations were very well received, and sparked a lot of interest in future connections between communities and this state park."

-2012 AmeriCorps member Robin Patten – Lewis & Clark Caverns State Park





Montana State Parks

Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

The LWCF is a federal program which provides funding specifically for outdoor recreation development and upgrades that benefit public outdoor recreation in each state.

The program was first implemented in 1965. The funding is from a portion of the proceeds derived from off-shore oil revenues. The funds are provided to each state based on a population formula and a single entity in each state is the designated contact for administration of the LWCF Program. For Montana, the designated entity is Montana State Parks (23-2-102, MCA).



Since 1965, Montana has received over \$34 million in federal LWCF funding. These funds have been distributed to over 800 outdoor recreation improvement projects statewide. The LWCF Program requires a 1:1 match. That is, for each \$1 of LWCF funding provided, \$1 of local match is required.

Typical projects have included; swimming pools, tennis courts, community park improvements, sports fields, restroom facilities, land acquisitions, and state park projects.

Virtually every town and community in Montana has received LWCF money over the past 48 years for local outdoor recreation projects of varying types and sizes. These include Montana communities as diverse as Winnett, Shelby, and Livingston, to larger cities such as Billings and Missoula.

History of Recent Federal LWCF Funding Allocations to Montana

○ 2009	\$255,970
○ 2010	\$359,096
○ 2011	\$352,746

Recent LWCF Grant Awards to Montana Communities

• Town of Saco	Park Improvement Project	\$11,000
• City of Malta	Swimming Pool Project	\$13,318
• Town of Shelby	Splash Park Project	\$75,000
• Whitehall School District	Outdoor Recreation Park	\$75,000
• City of Helena	Mt. Ascension Acquisition	\$75,000



Montana State Parks

Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

Current Status

- Over the years at the Congressional level, funding from the stateside LWCF program has been diverted to the federal side. There the funds are primarily utilized for land acquisitions by the federal land management agencies nationwide. The states have collectively championed the benefits the LWCF funding provides, with Montana being a leading advocate for the program at the national level.
- Funding is uncertain for the program at the federal level and the program survives on a year-to-year basis. While the amount of LWCF funding available to Montana is not significant in the broad federal budget picture, it is an important funding source for outdoor recreation improvements in our state.
- Due to the uncertainty of the funding availability for the program, the grant proposals received have been minimal.
- Another factor that may limit participation by Montana communities is the required 1:1 match. In current economic times, it is often difficult for a community to find the required matching funds for their project.
- Full funding of the federal stateside LWCF program would benefit Montana as many of the current needs are for the rehabilitation of existing LWCF projects funded constructed in the 1960's, 1970's and early 1980's. Individual projects have reached the end of their useful life and now need to be rehabilitated, upgraded, or rebuilt. Examples include; swimming pools, ancillary restroom facilities, ball fields, and playground areas and equipment.





Montana State Parks

Recreational Trails Program

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) is a federally funded program created in 1991 for the maintenance of trails for motorized, non-motorized, backcountry, urban, etc.



The RTP funds are derived from a portion of the federal gas tax paid by citizens for and related to non-highway fuel use nationwide. The RTP program and the funds that support it are completely separate from all Montana State Park revenues, camping fees, and related funding sources.

- The RTP program in Montana is administered by Montana State Parks. It has become a very important funding source for trail interests and communities statewide. Funding from the RTP program has gone to 'trail projects' as diverse as; winter snowmobile trail grooming efforts by private local clubs, the development of much needed urban connector trails in Montana's larger communities, aided economic growth in smaller communities which see the benefits of trails, backcountry trail maintenance, and a wide range of projects in between.
- The RTP program is popular and an important funding source for Montana communities as the required grant matching funds are minimal and reasonable compared to other grant programs. Specifically, the RTP program involves an 80%/20% match. Additionally, provisions exist within the program for the local match to be in-kind, not actual funding. This can involve donated labor, materials, and equipment time.

In the typical annual grant cycle, the project grant requests far exceed the funding available. The following are the results for the recent grant cycle years;

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
Applications Received	72	60	49	70	64
Funding Requested	\$2,952,000	\$2,887,000	\$1,609,000	\$1,610,000	\$2,252,000
Funding Available	\$1,350,000	\$1,440,000	\$1,320,000	\$1,320,000	\$1,099,000
Grants Awarded	53	44	35	50	48

For the foreseeable future, the federal RTP Program is a stable funding source for recreational trail-related projects throughout Montana. For the next two federal fiscal years, an annual allocation of approximately \$1.2 million is anticipated.



Montana State Parks

Recreational Trails Program

Grant Types/Typical Projects

The RTP funds can be utilized on a wide range of trail projects. Here is a sample of some of the 2012 funded projects:



<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Amount</u>
City of Billings	Broadwater Trail Connection	\$21,374
Bridger Ski Foundation	Nordic Trails/Gallatin Valley Area	\$16,857
Flathead County Parks & Rec.	Heron Park Trail Renovations	\$8,990
City of Glasgow	Sullivan Park Trail	\$24,496
Kings Hill Grooming Assn.	Snowmobile Trail Grooming	\$31,218
City of Lewistown	Creekside Park/Trail Development	\$37,930
Little Big Horn College	Trail Development	\$18,730
City of Miles City	Spotted Eagle Trail	\$31,298
Ponderosa Snow Warriors	Snowmobile Trail Grooming	\$32,778
Madison County	Lions Club Park Trail Connection	\$31,607
City of Shelby	Roadrunner Trail	\$19,596
City of Three Forks	Headwaters Trail System	\$27,393
Troy Snowmobile Club	Snowmobile Trail Grooming	\$7,492
Gallatin Avalanche Center	Avalanche Awareness, Safety, & Education	\$42,143

Additional Information:

Federal requirements of Montana State Parks' administration of the program involves the creation and use of a citizens State Trails Advisory Committee (STAC), which provides input and recommendations on the annual grant projects funded, as well as and general advise on a broad range of Montana trail issues.

In 2012 Montana State Parks implemented an 'on-line' grant system for the RTP Program. The first year was a success, with the public finding the system easy to use, the paperwork significantly reduced, and the submittal of numerous copies of individual grants was eliminated entirely.

Since the RTP program was initiated in 1991, a total of \$14,600,000 has been awarded to Montana trail projects and communities statewide via (611) individual grants. The RTP program is a significant funding source for trail projects statewide.



Montana State Parks

Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Program

Montana State Parks administers the OHV program to support off-highway vehicle trails and OHV safety and ethics information in Montana.



This program provides grant funding for projects that include; the maintenance of existing OHV trails, signing, ethics and safety education, and noxious weed control adjacent to trails and route mapping.

OHV grant funding is available to: public land managing agencies, private OHV clubs and other organizations.

The program collaborates with OHV clubs and associations and other public land managing agencies to promote conservation, safety and ethics. A key component of the program is education and showcasing proper OHV use in partnership with schools and teaching the public through venues like sport shows, across the state.

The majority of public riding opportunities for OHV enthusiasts occur on federal lands in Montana, primarily U.S. Forest Service and BLM managed lands.

OHV ownership and interest in Montana has been increasing. Earliest data available indicates 7,399 OHV's were registered in 1991. Data from 2011 indicates **67,138 OHV's registered**. The actual numbers are likely greater due to the fact that a permanent registration process was enacted by the Legislature in 2003, meaning that many OHV's in farm/ranch applications may not be registered.



OHV Grant Program Funding

Funding for Montana's OHV grant program is a combination of a percentage of estimated fuel tax utilized by OHV users in Montana, plus a portion of the OHV registration fees paid for decals;

Fuel Tax = the equivalent of 1/8 of 1% of the state gasoline dealer's license tax.

The OHV program and the funds that support it are completely separate from all Montana State Park revenues, camping fees, and related funding sources.



Montana State Parks

Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Program

Funding available for OHV grants has been in decline since the one-time-only (permanent) registration of OHVs was enacted by the Legislature in 2003, versus registering each year. Funding was nearly at \$400,000 in 2003 and today, it is approximately \$200,000.



2012 Off-Highway Vehicle Program Grants:

<u>Project Sponsor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Grant Amount</u>
Capital Trail Vehicle Association	Big Belt Mountain Trail Signing	\$14,000
Friends of Pipestone	OHV Kiosks and Area Maps	\$17,000
Great Falls Trail Bike Riders Association	OHV Trail Steward Lewis & Clark NF	\$26,000
BLM – Butte Field Office	OHV Trail Steward, Pipestone, Clancy	\$13,000
Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF	OHV Trail Steward, Butte/Jefferson R.D.	\$13,000
Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF	OHV Trail Steward, Dillon R.D.	\$12,000
Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF	OHV Trail Steward, Madison R.D.	\$12,000
Bitterroot NF	OHV Trail Steward, Bitterroot.	\$13,000
Bozeman/Hebgen Ranger Districts	OHV Trail Steward, Gallatin West	\$26,000
Yellowstone and Gardiner R.D.	OHV Trail Steward, Gallatin East	\$26,000
Helena NF	OHV Trail Steward, Townsend/Helena R.D.	\$12,000
Lolo NF	OHV Trail Steward, Missoula R.D.	\$12,000
<u>TOTAL FOR 2012</u>		<u>\$196,000*</u>

*grant requests in 2012 were more than \$290,000, which is more than the grant funding available.

Non-resident Decal Purchases

Non-residents utilizing OHV's they have brought into the state are required to purchase a decal for \$5 dollars/year. The following are the numbers of decals sold to non-residents in recent years.

- 2011 1,182
- 2010 1,309
- 2009 1,249





Montana State Parks

Snowmobile Program

Montana has a well developed snowmobile grooming program throughout the western areas of the state.

Yearly grooming involves approximately 4,000 miles of trails, primarily on federal U.S. Forest Service lands. In 1991 there were 15,142 registered snowmobiles in Montana. In 2009 there were 42,013 registered snowmobiles.



The backbone of the program is the (27) organized Snowmobile Clubs, all of which receive state grooming funds from the Snowmobile Program.

Montana State Parks administers the snowmobile program. Grant funding is derived from a formula that sets aside a percentage of the Distributor's Gasoline License Tax, a portion of Montana resident registration fees, and non-resident temporary use permit funds.

The Snowmobile program and the funds that support it are completely separate from all Montana State Parks' revenues, camping fees, and related funding sources.

Snowmobile Registrations and Process

- Snowmobiles for personal use in Montana are permanently registered. A flat fee of \$60.50 is paid to receive the permanent registration sticker which is applied to the snowmobile.
- Non-resident snowmobilers visiting Montana are required to obtain an annual 'Non-Resident Temporary Use Permit'. The cost of the decal is \$25/year and is available from Montana FWP and private vendors statewide.

Integral to the Snowmobile Program is the fleet of groomers owned by the State, but managed and operated by the respective Clubs. Each biennium funding is available for groomer repairs and replacement. Currently there are (20) groomers in the fleet.

Each biennium approximately \$420,000 is available for the replacement or significant repair efforts on groomers.

The Snowmobile Program involves a (5) member citizens advisory group, known as the Snowmobile Advisory Committee (SAC). The SAC is composed of citizens who are active in their local Snowmobile Clubs and with snowmobiling issues on a statewide level. Also attached to the SAC in an advisory capacity are representatives from the U.S. Forest Service and the BLM.



Montana State Parks

Snowmobile Program

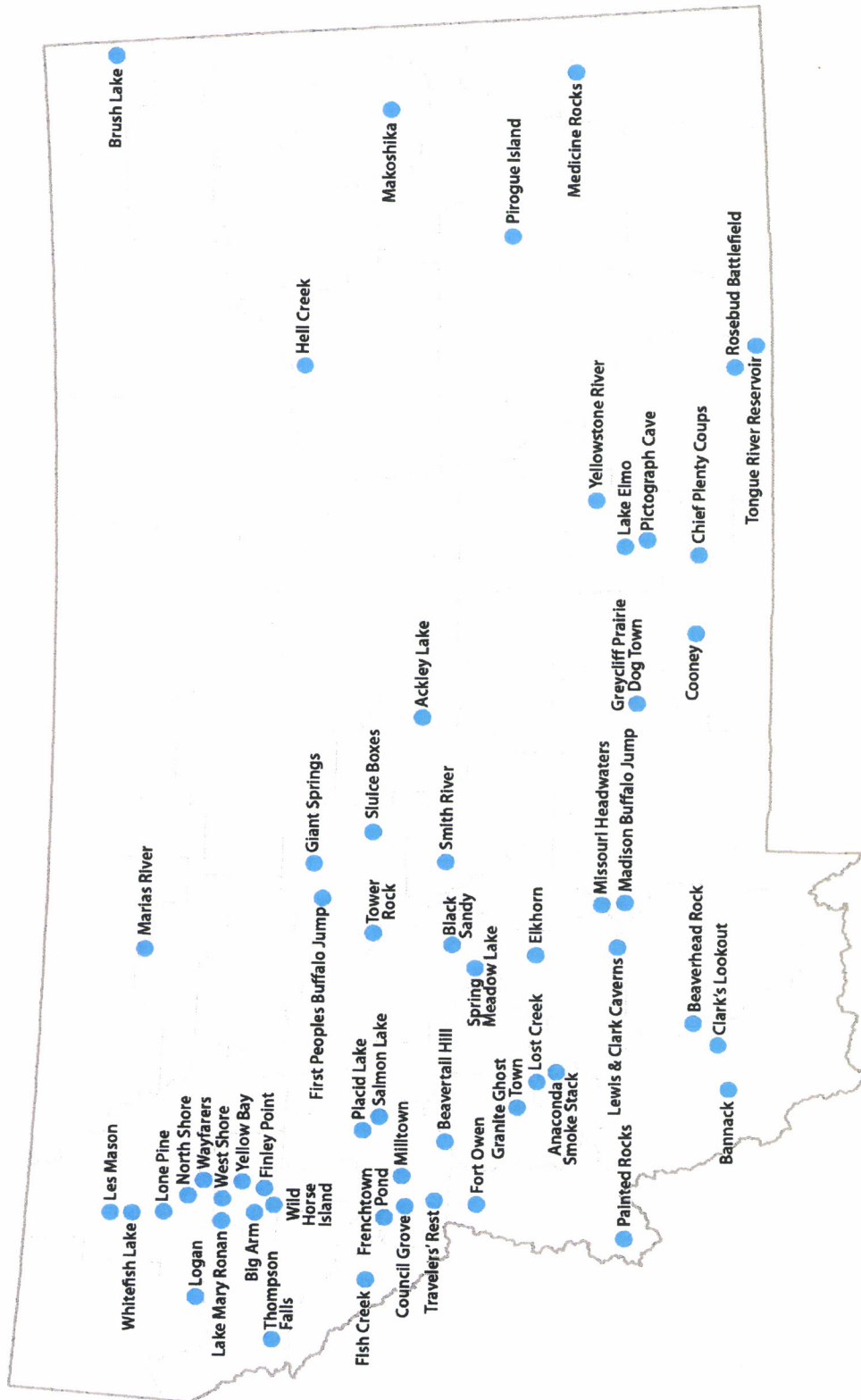
Grant funds listed below are allocated for fuel, repairs and supplies, signage, and other costs related to annual grooming operations performed by the local Clubs.

2012/2013 Snowmobile Club Grooming Fund Allocations



Club:	Grant Amount:
Anaconda Snowmobile Club	\$10,089.00
Beaverhead Snow Riders	\$13,555.00
Big Hole Snowmobile Club (Wisdom)	\$2,596.00
Big Sky Snowriders (Livingston)	\$5,870.00
Bitterroot Ridge Runners Snowmobile Club (Hamilton)	\$10,644.00
Cabinet Ridge Riders (Trout Creek)	\$4,750.00
Deer Lodge Snowmobile Club	\$3,354.00
Flathead Snowmobile Association (Kalispell)	\$19,638.00
Gallatin Valley Snowmobile Association (Bozeman)	\$23,481.00
Helena Snowdrifters	\$18,475.00
Kings Hill Grooming Association (Great Falls)	\$21,550.00
Lincoln County Sno-Kats (Libby)	\$6,435.00
Little Belt Snowmobile Club (Hobson)	\$10,083.00
Mining City Trail Riders (Butte)	\$3,202.00
Missoula Snowgoers – Garnet	\$8,538.00
Missoula Snowgoers – Lolo System	\$20,066.00
Montana Nightriders (Haugan)	\$13,215.00
Ponderosa Snow Warriors (Lincoln)	\$16,324.00
Seeley Lake Drift Riders	\$16,324.00
Summit Snowgoers (Cut Bank)	\$18,490.00
Sweet Grass County Recreation Association	\$1,330.00
Ten Lakes Snowmobile Club (Eureka)	\$7,674.00
Troy Snowmobile Club	\$2,850.00
Upper Yellowstone Snowmobile Club (Cooke City)	\$31,609.00
Vigilante Snowmobilers (Virginia City)	\$18,059.00
West Yellowstone Chamber of Commerce	\$72,578.00
Wise River Jackpine Savages	\$6,404.00
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>\$387,183.00</u>

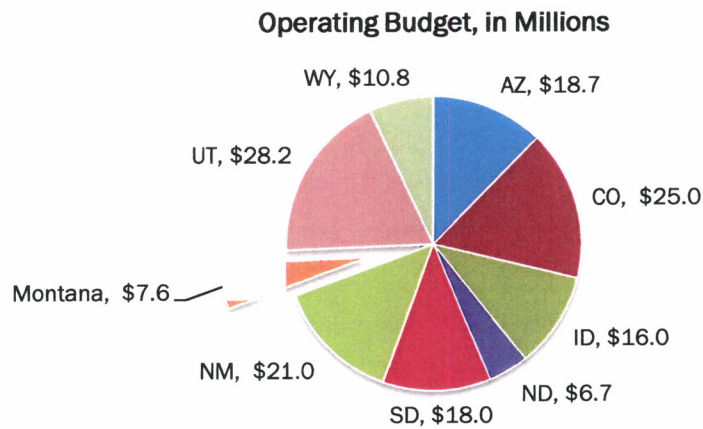
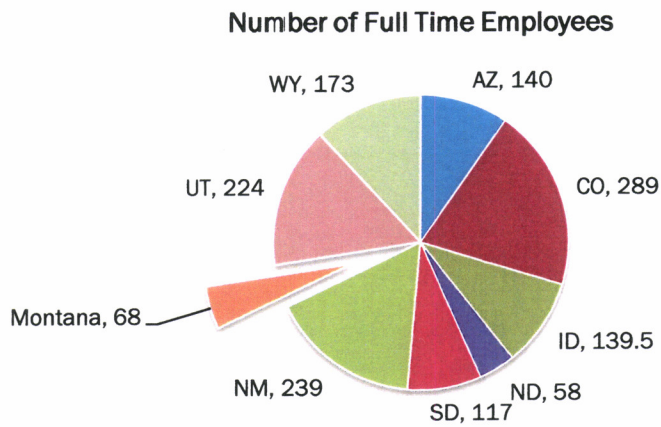
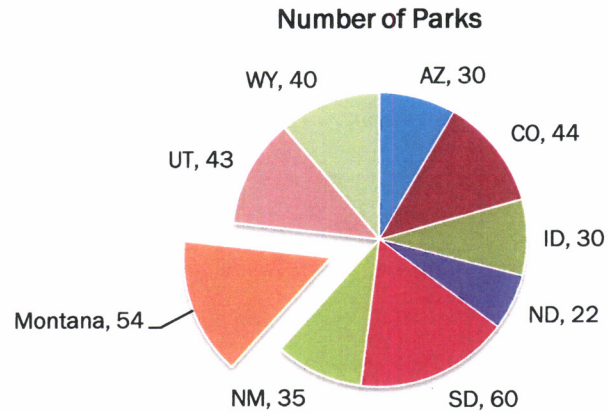
Montana State Parks





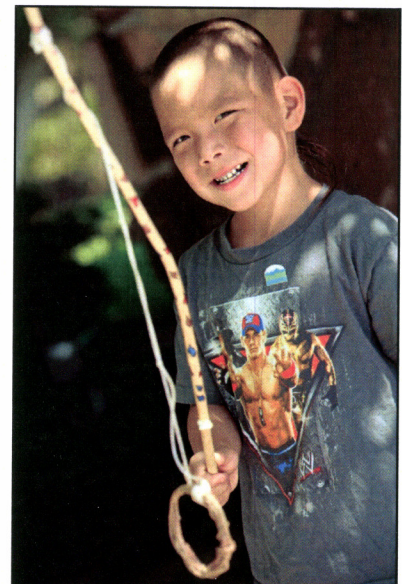
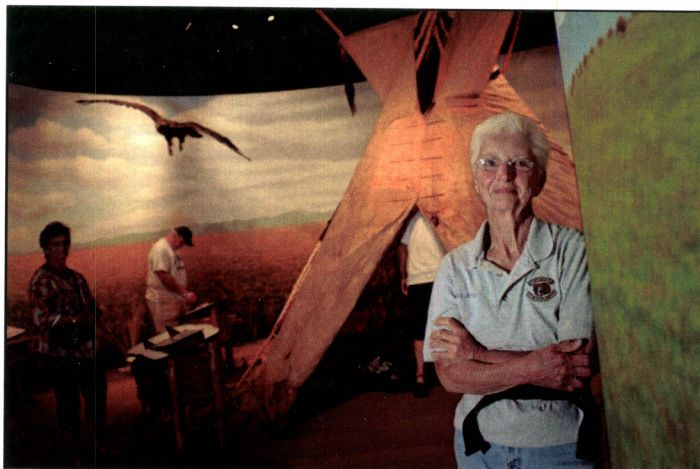
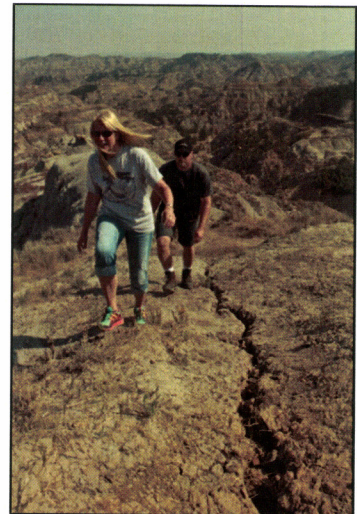
Montana State Parks

How Montana State Parks compares within Rocky Mountain Region:





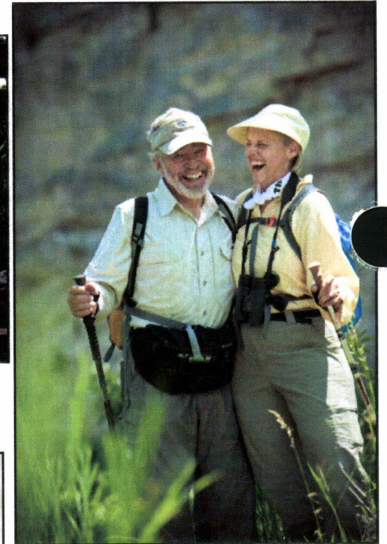
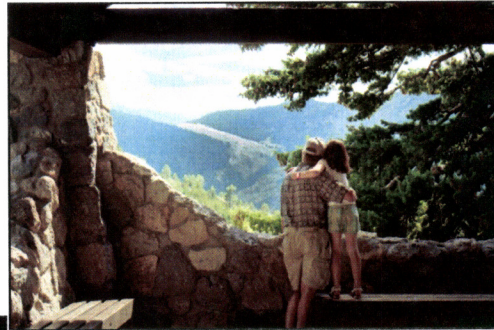
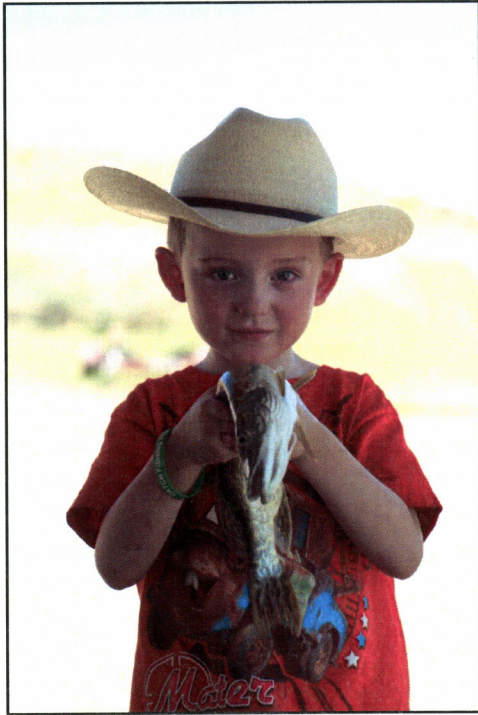
Montana State Parks



Photos (clockwise): Wild Horse Island State Park, Hell Creek State Park, Makoshika State Park, Chief Plenty Coups State Park, First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park, Big Arm State Park.



Montana State Parks



Photos (clockwise): Hell Creek State Park, Cooney State Park, Sluice Boxes State Park, Big Arm State Park, Lewis & Clark Caverns State Park, Sluice Boxes State Park and center is Lewis & Clark Caverns State Park.